



Estimation requires approximate numbers.  
We can say a car is more or less a  
rectangular prism:



with height  $h$ ,  
width  $w$ ,  
length  $l$ .

Volume of this shape is  $l \times w \times h = V$ .  
Height of a car? I'm about 5ft tall and  
can just see over it. So

$$h \sim 5\text{ft.}$$

Width: I can just about lay down in a car  
across the back seat.

$$w \sim 5\text{ft.}$$

Length: Seems around twice as long  
as I am tall, or maybe a bit  
longer.

$$l = 10 - 13\text{ft} \sim 10\text{ft.}$$

$$\text{Volume} = h \times w \times l = 5\text{ft} \times 5\text{ft} \times 10\text{ft}$$

$$\approx 250\text{ft}^3$$

~~250~~ If asked for an  
order of magnitude  
calculation,

$$250 = 2.50 \times 10^2$$

$$\rightarrow \approx 10^2 \text{ft}^3$$